

Master Gardener Foundation Kitsap County

Board Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2006

I. Call to order

Jane Bedinger called to order the regular meeting of the **MGFKC** at **1:09 pm** on **April 12, 2006** at the Eagles Nest, Kitsap County Fairgrounds, Bremerton WA.

Attendees: Jane Bedinger, TR Strong, Sandy Livermore, Marialis Jorges, Allen Miller, Colette Wilson, Delona Kent, Wayne Tysver, Peg Tillery, Beanie O'Neil, Donna Hamilton, Sharon Howard, Mary Manning, Dave Reckner

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Colette Wilson queried for any corrections or amendments to the minutes from the last meeting. The minutes were approved distributed.

Motion to Approve by **TR Strong**

Motion Seconded by **Sandy Livermore**

Vote: Unanimously carried.

III. Reports and Announcements

Treasurer's Report – Sandy Livermore

Sandy has created two new CD's to invest some of the money which had been sitting in the checking account on a short term basis. One is in the amount of \$6000. See Sandy's attached report. Checking account balance is currently \$14,786. Total Assets, \$39,554.63.

Sandy is currently completing the Foundation tax return. Sandy will be mailing it off tomorrow and thanked everyone for the timely way in which they got her information to her so she could complete the return.

Horticulture Coordinator – Peg Tillery

Peg needs two volunteers for the Norm Dicks Center on April 22nd for Earth Day. She also needs volunteers at Stillwater for the same day and cause. (3 needed). Peg has looked into the availability of getting some greenhouse space somewhere. Blueberry Park in Bremerton is being turned into an arboretum. Facilities, Parks & Rec in Bremerton will be establishing a greenhouse in the same area to grow their own plants. They have an old greenhouse which has been dismantled and they will donate it to the Master Gardener program because of our partnership in developing this park and arboretum. The greenhouse will not be heated but it will have water piped to it. We will be able to use it for training, plant propagation and development. We will need to work in

conjunction with Facilities, Parks and Rec. twice per year for a 5 day period to pot hanging baskets used by Facilities, Parks and Rec throughout the city. Our commitment and involvement in this program if agreed too will be involving both the Foundation and Program. Immediate involvement would be for assessment and planning. Allen Miller, Kim Schleis, Peg Tillery and Laura Pittman-Hewitt will do the initial assessment and report back to the Foundation. Jane will announce to the Foundation membership as a whole so that any other interested parties may be able to participate. No action will be taken until after the plant sale. Peg will get firm details regarding the description of the greenhouse. We also need to find out what the Foundation involvement will be. We need to determine boundaries and levels of responsibility as well as ownership.

Peg asked that we send her questions or concerns that we may have regarding the greenhouse and partnership so that she can seek out the answers from Facilities, Parks and Rec. A letter of agreement/understanding will be developed and signed as part of the process if we agree to.

Investigation will be documented and reported on as a "special committee" report in the reports section of the Board Meeting.

Cathy Moen, the 4H Coordinator has resigned and will not be replaced until after Fair. They are looking for a person with a Masters/PhD in Education/Youth Development as a replacement. Staffing will change over the course of the summer in order to cover all areas.

The 2006 MG Class has graduated and they are out volunteering in gardens now on their way to satisfying their volunteer hour needs. The last day of class became garden time as rookies were asked to help at each location (2 at Raab Park and 1 at Anna Smith). Rookies were delighted with the ability to work together in the gardens and have asked that we look for ways to develop this sort of opportunity to work in large groups like this throughout the year.

Jane commented that this sort of activity is beneficial and develops relationships and strengthens our group.

State Foundation Representative – TR Strong

Peg, Arno and TR went to the Mid-Pacific Cluster meeting of Horticulture Coordinators for counties in this part of Western Washington. Foundation and Program members attend this meeting. TR came back with several ideas.

- Open plant sale to MG only prior to opening it to the public.
- Foundation Newsletter goes to MG's regardless of whether they are members of the Foundation or not.
- There is a raffle or prize at every Board meeting. Done with the interest of always looking for opportunities to give Members a reason to come out to meetings.

TR is interested in exploring other ways of enhancing the experience for our members and garnering additional involvement from active MG's and Foundation members.

Jane commented that more social activities are needed to foster greater involvement. Participants are always looking for opportunities to meet their other MG's but not necessarily in a purely and formal "work" function. Marialis commented that we need a way of maintaining more constant contact with members in "intentional" groups to continue to foster involvement. Peg talked about how King County has many more "pot luck" type meetings for smaller committees and groups throughout the year. Peg commented that we continue to explore this as part of membership development.

Jane suggested evening meetings during summertime when driving at night is not as great an issue for some of our older members. Jane would like us to come with specific suggestions for developing membership involvement including evening events and meetings.

Allen commented that as is typical of many organizations 10% of the members do 90% of the work. He feels strongly that MG's be able to purchase plants etc at the Plant Sale prior to the sale etc as a perk for the amount of work that we do on a volunteer basis. But, MG's should have a limit on the amount that they are allowed to buy before the sale starts.

Beanie O'Neill commented that the entire membership must be notified prior to any type of "perk" being implemented so that no one is left out. Clear communication is important.

Jane Bedinger commented that we may be able to do a plant sale "exchange" prior to the actual plant sale as a "perk" for MG's and to encourage them to propagate and exchange for the plant sale. This can be done as a social event that is exclusively for MG's. Jane will discuss this with Pam Warner.

Dave Reckner commented that there are always MG's sneaking in to buy early or working on the 1st day of the plant sale so they can buy early. We either have to ensure that no one buys early or any MG is allowed to buy early.

Jane suggested if we had strong feelings about how this should be handled that they attend a plant sale committee meeting.

Newsletter Committee – Colette Wilson

Colette talked about the lack of interest from members in taking over any aspect of the newsletter production.

Donna Hamilton suggested that the newsletter should be made available only online.

Jane talked about the history of regarding why the newsletter is mailed out, that is what the membership has said they want. Jane suggested that given the current circumstances we revisit how the newsletter is produced.

Program Committee – Sharon Howard

The Hypertufa class was a tremendous success. Everyone who signed up attended the event. It was a wonderful success in terms of creating items for

the plant sale and because it was a full day event people really got to interact and get to know each other well.

There has been a lot of interest in doing a concrete leaf class. This will be explored.

No one has signed up for the Worm Bin class on May 20th. Sharon commented that the timing may be bad because people are out working in their gardens. The event needs to be indoors or in an area where we can get power because tools are needed for creating the bins. Sharon said that they will continue to hold sign-up for the Worm Bin class for some additional period of time. Sharon received a huge round of applause from everyone present at the meeting to acknowledge the success of the event under her direction and that of her committee.

Speaker Series – Delona Kent

\$2338.75 less \$1258.64(for books purchased) net \$1,080.11. we have also received 10% of Bethel Book stores sales and \$85 from Ed Hume for book sales. These figures do not include apron and patch sales.

Delona questioned if we wanted to do the Speaker Series again. She has already thought of 4 speakers that may be of interest to us.

Delona suggested that we split the location of the Speaker Series. We have greater attendance from North End residents when the series isn't held in Bremerton. Peg suggested that we consider moving the entire Speaker Series out of Bremerton and explore other locations for which we might not be charged. Parking will no longer be free anywhere in downtown Bremerton. She has had extensive conversation with the Mayor regarding her concerns will lack of parking being available.

Additional discussion needs to take place in anticipation of future planning.

Wayne commented that there are other venues that can be explored.

Jane will send an email asking for location suggestions from the members at large.

Delona received a hearty round of applause for the success of this event.

Ways and Means Committee

No report.

Fred Meyer Fuchsia Potting

Jane reported that there was tremendous success at this event. Fred Meyer's of Port Orchard gave the Foundation \$150 in free plants and provided the workers with food and coffee throughout the day. The event was very popular. A last minute fuschia planting took place at Fred Meyer's in Bremerton but no details were available regarding the success of this event.

Finance Committee

No report.

Audit Committee

No report.

IV. New Business

- a) Books were purchased from the speaker series speakers which will be donated to the Program Library. No vote was needed because this type of gift was previously approved in the Budget Process.
- b) Ad in West Sound Gardening magazine needs to be determined for the upcoming June issue. Jane suggested that perhaps we not use this ad space since there is no specific fundraising event to promote. Colette suggested using the ad space to promote membership in the Foundation. Peg suggested advertising clinics in the article. Motion to run an ad in the next issue (summer 2006) soliciting membership in the West Sound Gardening publication. Motion TR Strong, seconded Colette Wilson. Marialis suggested that we include reference to the road trips. All in favor. Vote unanimously approved.
- c) Nominating Committee – deferred to May 2006 meeting.
- d) Speaker Series Motion to have speaker series run again next year under Delona Kent's guidance. Motion TR, Second Colette Vote: Unanimously approved.
- e) Calendar Purchases: We continue to receive requests for purchase of calendars from people via email. Jane needs to know what to do about email requests for newsletters. She needs a volunteer to handle sales that continue to come in. TR volunteered to take on this part of the Calendar sales. Jane will arrange to have the Paypal information and email orders sent electronically to TR.
- f) Leadership Training will @ Thelar Education Center, Tuesday, June 6th. Board members and perspective board members are invited to attend. The training will take place between 10am and 2:30 pm. Jane suggested combining the Board meeting with the training. After discussion it was agreed that the Board meeting would remain on the Wednesday as scheduled.

V. Adjournment

Jane Bedinger adjourned the meeting at **3:10pm**.

Minutes submitted by: Colette Wilson, Secretary